tional, monstrous forms nature originally proposes and later is obliged to drop!

At the *Her cure* a moment to take back Davray's manuscript (translation of Stephen Phillips's poor play: *Herod,* in which the emotions are dragged in only to support the gestures, just as Aaron supported Moses' arms).

Evening with Em, at the Comedic-Fran^aisc: *Andromaque.* Great disappointment for the overproper Bartet She remains a lady. The public applauds her scandalously. You feel that what they like in her is not style (about which they know nothing) but gentility. Her virtues are negative. Her value lies in her lack of faults,

Mounet was, most often, excellent.

As for the play, I must reread it at once. I was embarrassed by a sort of tragic persiflage.[18]

The great mistake of actors today, when they play Racine, is to try to emphasize the natural qualities where the art should be emphasized, Suzanne Despr&s would like to act Phedre because, as she says, she *feels* the role. . . , To begin with, it's Racine that one should feel.

*2*

*February*

If s less a thesis novel than a period novel that I fear, in what I can glimpse from F/s recital. Oh, how badly he tells anything, that good fellow!

Quiet day with C£sar Franck, Balzac *(Pierre Grassou),* Retz. Read aloud to Em. Laf orgue's *SalomS.*

In the evening went to join Philippe and Ghanvin at the Taverne. Dull evening; one of those evenings when, for want of something better to do, you smoke more than you talk.

Admirable views of Paris under the snow,

3 *February*

Again much piano (5 to 6 hours).

'There are," de Max tells me this morning, "only three roles in the classical theater that I have always longed to play: Orestes, Nero, and Polyeucte; and three historical costumes I should like to wear: Julian, Heliogabalus, and Henri III."

Decidedly I shall some day write *U£chan$on.™* I do not know why procurers have always been treated as monsters and vile creatures.

[18] Amusement at later finding this same remark in Voltaire. [A,]

[1]* *The Chief Butler.* If Gide ever wrote this work, it has not been published.